



Department of Justice

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COLUMBUS MAN CONVICTED FOR BANK ROBBERIES, MURDER OF COLUMBUS POLICE OFFICER

Second phase of trial begins today

COLUMBUS - A federal jury here yesterday convicted Daryl M. Lawrence, age 29, of Columbus, on three counts of armed bank robbery, one count of attempted armed bank robbery, two counts of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence, one count of discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and one count of discharging a firearm that led to the murder of Columbus Police Officer Bryan Hurst. Committing murder during a crime of violence is punishable by death under federal law. The jury will now consider whether or not to sentence Lawrence to death.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Stanley Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation Cincinnati Field Division; Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney Ron O'Brien, and Columbus Police Chief James L. Jackson announced the verdicts returned yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge Gregory L. Frost who presided over the trial that begun on February 13, 2006.

The jury found that Lawrence robbed the Fifth Third bank at 6265 East Broad Street, Columbus using a firearm on January 21, 2004. He was also found guilty of the August 12, 2004 armed robbery of Key Bank, 33 North Cleveland Avenue, Westerville, and the September 8, 2004 robbery of the Sky Bank at 1800 Bethel Road, Columbus, where he discharged the firearm he used to rob the bank.

In addition to those robberies, Lawrence was found guilty of the January 6, 2005 attempted robbery of the Fifth Third Bank, 6265 East Broad Street, Columbus, that resulted in the killing of Officer Hurst.

"There are few words that can describe the pain that these crimes have caused the family and friends of Officer Bryan Hurst as well as his fellow Columbus Police Officers and the law enforcement community," Lockhart said. "Hopefully, the guilty verdicts returned today will offer some solace for their grief and some comfort to the employees and customers in the banks who continue to be affected by the horrifying events that occurred during all of the robberies." Columbus Police officers arrested Lawrence on January 9, 2005. He has been in custody since his arrest.

The verdict concludes the first of three phases in the trial. The trial now begins a second phase in which the government will attempt to prove that "aggravating factors" make Lawrence eligible for the death sentence. Aggravating factors specified in the government's notice of intent to seek the death penalty include intentionally killing the officer, creating grave risk of death to

additional persons, and committing the offense with expectation of financial gain. The defense will have the opportunity to present mitigating factors.

If the jury finds that aggravating factors occurred, the third phase will be the sentencing phase. The U.S. Attorney General has approved U.S. Attorney Lockhart's request to ask for the death penalty during the third phase, if the government is successful in the earlier two stages.

Each of the four bank robbery counts carries a maximum punishment of 25 years imprisonment. The firearms charges carry a total mandatory minimum sentence of 85 years to be served consecutive to any sentence he receives for the robberies. Causing the death of an individual during a crime of violence is punishable only by life imprisonment or death.

Lockhart commended the investigative efforts of the FBI, and the Columbus Police. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys David M. DeVillers and Michael J. Burns, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron O'Brien who are all prosecuting the case.

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